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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. BARTON of Texas].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 20, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable JOE BARTON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

As we view our world, O God, we see the ironies of life and the incongruities of our human experience. There is the destruction of the floods and yet there is the beauty of a rainbow; there are the conflicts and the violence of war and the satisfaction of peace; there is the pain of sickness and the enjoyment of health. We pray, merciful God, that whatever our condition and whatever our need, we will know the assurance that Your grace is sufficient for whatever occurs and Your love for us never ends. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. BOSWELL]

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BOSWELL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain five 1-minutes on each side.

OMEGA BOYS CLUB

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to have my friends, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI] and the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS] join me in presenting the Freedom Works Award to the Omega Boys Club of San Francisco.

I established the Freedom Works Award to celebrate freedom by recognizing individuals and groups who promote personal responsibility instead of a reliance on government.

The Omega Boys Club was founded by Joe Marshall and Jack Jackwa in 1987 with a mission to rescue inner city youth from the influence of gangs, drugs, and violence. Since its founding, the club has taken more than 600 children off gang warfare and drug dealing and has pushed them, tutored them, and even raised enough money to send them, 140 of them, to colleges around the country.

The club has enjoyed these positive results without receiving a single penny of Federal assistance. Instead they have relied on the personal initiative taken by Joe Marshall, Jack Jackwa, Margaret Norris, Coach Wil-

bur Jiggetts, and other Omega members.

The success of the Omega Boys Club is based on these four principles:

There is nothing more important than an individual's life;

A friend will never lead you to danger;

Change begins with you;

Respect comes from within.

Mr. Speaker, government alone cannot solve our Nation's problems. That does not mean we simply throw our hands up in frustration. It means every single one of us, no matter what our politics, must roll up our sleeves and do the work each of us is capable of doing to rebuild our neighborhoods and communities. Every day, groups like the Omega Boys Club demonstrate the understanding that with freedom comes responsibility.

Sadly enough, youth violence has taken more than twice as many American lives each year as cancer, heart disease, and car accidents combined.

Today's inner city children need hope, they need love, they need a place to go where they know someone cares. They have found all these things, and more, in the Omega Boys Club.

If we are a great country today, and if we are to be a great country in the future, it will be because of groups like the Omega Boys Club, who have recognized their freedom to dream, and who have voluntarily taken upon themselves the responsibility for making America's best dreams come true.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ARMEY. I yield to the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI].

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY], the distinguished majority leader, for awarding his Freedom Works Award to the Omega Boys Club of San Francisco. It is a national organization now. As he says, it is about self-initiative, it is about respect for the individual.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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